



Kevin Mayer  
03/05/98 01:48 PM

To: Catherine McCracken@EPA, Carmen White@EPA, Reymundo Anthony/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Andrew Bain@EPA, Hedy Ficklin@EPA, Vicky Semones@EPA  
cc:  
Subject: Re: Perchlorate questions

----- Forwarded by Kevin Mayer on 03/05/98 01:36 PM -----



drogers@afls2.jag.af.mil on 03/05/98 10:50:19 AM

Please respond to drogers@afls2.jag.af.mil

To: Kevin Mayer  
cc: Peter Grevatt, Annie Jarabek, Michael Osinski  
Subject: Re: Perchlorate questions

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Kevin and all,

While I understand the concerns raised by Catherine, here are some general comments.

First, perchlorate is a fast mover with sites in California (its origin), Nevada (probably the largest potential affected public), and Utah. Public meetings with the regulators have previously been held in Northern and Southern California and Las Vegas.

I have always been of the opinion that sharing information about the process was important to the public. Every time I've presented information to the Citizen Advisory groups for the water system administrators or appeared at a Regional Water Quality Board hearing, the most important element was in telling the public what is going on.

Can we answer the hard questions? NO! We are still in the scientific information gathering process and will be until the external peer review meets and formalizes its recommendations to EPA.

However, we have worked very hard over the past 12 months to bring the experts together in the toxicology arena to look hard at what studies should be completed and to make sure they were done right. While professionals may differ as to the process, I'm confident that all opinions were listened to prior to going forward with each of the studies.

So what is important now? Telling the story about how perchlorate came up on the radar scope and who is playing a part in getting the answers to the questions most asked ... is it bad? Should I be concerned, and if so, at what level? How wide-spread is the problem? What is being done to see how it can be

removed from the water systems, if necessary? What technologies are available to address the problem?

It seems that every time we have put the experts into a room and "discussed" the overall issue, there has been a continued sense and willingness to put egos aside and share information relative to solving the problem. It happened at the May 1997 meeting, the AWWA-RF conference in October 97, and the Symposium hosted by Ed Urbanski.

Just because we don't have all the answers does not mean we can't tell the story and that is what I think the public deserves. Contrary to some reporters opinions, this is a good news story and I feel fortunate to be a part of it. Look at how much cooperation and work has been since March of last year.

After our telephone discussions I'm even more excited about this process and will do my part to keep on track, on time.

More later.

MajorDan